



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT
City Hall Conference Room 2 (Note ROOM CHANGE)

Date: November 13, 2014 6:30pm

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)

Diane Bonavita

Emilie Hauser (by phone)

Lynn Johnson

Kevin McEvoy (Secretary)

Casey Schwarz

Gregg Swanzey (present until 8pm, 8:10 to 8:25pm, returned 9:05pm)

Guest: Elizabeth Broad

I. Introduction and Public Comment: Board introductions. Elizabeth Broad, guest expressed interest in serving on the CAC, briefly describing her experiences and recent work at Catskill Mountainkeeper. There was no other public comment.

II. Modifications to the Agenda: None

III. Review and Approval August and October 2014 Meeting Minutes:

- 1. August Minutes:** Upon motion made by Lynn and seconded by Gregg, the council approved the minutes to the August 2014 meeting as amended, with Casey, Emilie and Diane abstaining since they did not attend in August.
- 2. Executive Session:** At 6:48pm upon motion made by Kevin and seconded by Diane, the council resolved to enter executive session which session lasted until 7:14pm
- 3. October Minutes:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the council approved the minutes to the October 2014 meeting as amended.

IV. Old Business

- 1. 472-498 1st Avenue Site Plan Review:** Kevin recounted research on the site involving Ulster County Parcel Mapper, Planning Dept and County Clerk's office document search and review with City Planner, Suzanne Cahill. Issues discussed included wetlands and siting of driveway to minimize habitat disruption.
- 2. AVR/Hudson Landing Open Space Management Plan Update:** Kevin and Gregg discussed with the council the consistency of the Hudson Landing draft open space management plan with the previously approved Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS),

Findings, phasing of the plan which is currently in flux, donation of land in lieu of recreation fees and whether such donation would be in fee simple to the City and Town or as an easement with AVR retaining title and the insurance implications of such as an easement with regards to the Recreational Statute, and future stewardship from a home owners association (HOA) to be formed upon initial build out of the housing component. As an action item, either Gregg or Kevin will email the Hudson Landing draft open space management plan and links to its appendices for review and comment by council members.

3. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)/Open Space Plan (OSP):

Emilie discussed possibility of asking different people to come to the CAC to review the possibilities and process. This including possibly asking Saugerties CAC. Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) is doing an NRI Guide update. Julie indicated that the people mentioned at n August meeting were people who have familiarity with OSP. Funding opportunities were discussed including Greenway, which is not presently possible. A discussion regarding the overall project work plan and a work plan for intern or consultant included determining scope of work, funding, possibility of hiring a consultant and document preparation. While no motions or resolutions were made or presented, the following action items resulted from the discussions:

- i. **Assistance:** Former council member Susan Hereth has indicated she can help arrange for an intern from SUNY NP to assist in the process. Julie will let Susan know we are interested. Emilie can write an internship description (possibly 2 days a week from late January to mid-May) which should include GIS experience and familiarity with NRI steps such as putting GIS layers in a map together with interpretation of such maps and using the NRI to identify open space.
 - ii. **Work plan** to be informed by people familiar with NRI/OSP and those invited to December meeting Emilie to invite people for December. Emilie to provide information and resources on NRI process, to CAC via email.
 - iii. **Habitat Mapping/Summary Presentation and Ulster County Parcel Viewer Training:** Susan Hereth had been trying to arrange a joint training session by the County for the CAC and the Kingston Planning Board with Suzanne Cahill before Susan resigned in Sept. On or about Oct 30, Julie followed up the discussion with Suzanne for 1 ½ hour time slots. Julie will talk to the County staff and then send possible dates to Planning.
- 4. Fall Conference:** Conference is canceled and needs to be rescheduled.

V. New Business

1. CAC membership: Julie thanked Susan & Arthur for their service. Julie had conducted an exit interview with Arthur regarding communications and the fall conference and has followed up on Susan's initiative on the Planning Board joint meeting & training with the County noted elsewhere herein

2. New Member Outreach: With the resignations of Arthur Zaczekiewicz and Susan Hereth, the council is left with two unexpired terms. Elizabeth Broad indicated her interest in both Climate Smart Kingston Commission and the CAC and restated her environmental experiences in Brooklyn and NYC and work with Catskill Mountainkeeper. The Council went into executive session from 8:28 to 8:31pm.

3. 2015 Meetings: Members agreed by acclamation that the meeting dates for 2015 shall be the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

3. **Members Terms:** Several members' terms are expiring at year end. Diane indicated she may retire from the council at the end of her term.
4. **NYS Open Space Plan:** Comments on the NYS Open Space Plan are due 12-17 and should be submitted for CAC edit, review and collation by the next meeting 12-9-14.
5. **Budget & NYSACC Membership:** The present annual budget is \$500 budget. To date \$69.50 has been paid to Cloud Access for a website domain. The NYS Association of Conservation Councils (NYSACC) renewal is now due in the amount of \$75. Other possible budget items discussed included printing Climate Action Plan hard copies or possible purchase of a projector with cord and surge suppressor. Upon motion made by Julie and seconded by Casey, the council approved a \$75 payment for NYSACC dues.

VI. Reports

1. **Communications Working Sub-Committee/ Social Media (Vacancy):** Arthur was a communications social media administrator which position is now vacant. Julie reviewed the City social media policy.
2. **EMC Liaison:** Emilie Hauser attended the last meeting and reported on discussions concerning the Solarize movement, Central Hudson funding for switching to LED lighting and the county roads emerald ash borer survey.
3. **Planning Board Meeting Liaison:** Casey had no new business to report.
4. **Public Safety Meeting Liaison:** Julie attended the last meeting and presented the Niagara water bottling recommendation from the October CAC meeting to the Public Safety Committee of the Common Council.
5. **Comprehensive Plan Liaison:** Gregg and Julie reported on received feedback and comments submitted on the draft comprehensive plan.
6. **Ad Hoc Water Bottling Committee:** (Diane Bonavita, Kevin McEvoy, Julie Noble, Gregg Swanzy) Diane reported on the meeting at Kevin's house. The committee sorted public comments and the comments are now posted on the City website. Committee is to review public comments pertaining to CAC or within CAC scope,. They will forward or SEQRA questions to Town of Ulster and water questions to the Kingston Water Board.
7. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission:** The Commission is still accepting applications. From the CAC Kevin & Casey have expressed interest in being non-voting members, Emilie a voting member, Julie the chairperson and Gregg an ex-officio as Economic Development and Strategic Partnership Director.

VII. Announcements:

1. **Parks & Recreation Green Friday:** Event is the day after Thanksgiving 11-28.
https://apm.activecommunities.com/kingstonparksandrec/activity_search/green-friday-at-the-forsyth-nature-center/409?
2. **Bringing Back Broadway:** Ulster County Transportation Council (overall Kingston connectivity project) event is Wednesday 11-19 from 3-5pm and 6-8pm at 721 Media Center, 721 Broadway, Kingston NY.
<http://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/planning/Kingston%20Broadway%20Existing%20Conditions%20TM%201%20Final%2011%207%2014.pdf>

VIII. Adjournment: Adjournment by unanimous acclamation at 9:30pm